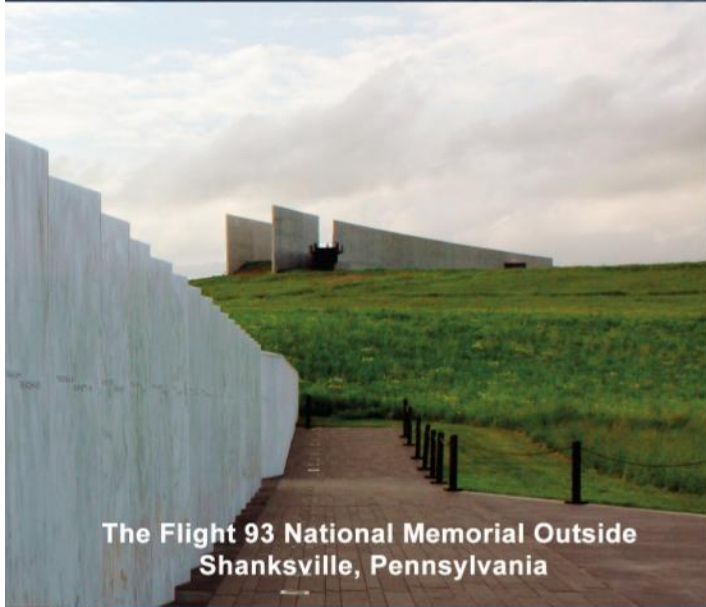


South Pool of the National September 11 Memorial in New York City



The Flight 93 National Memorial Outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania



Pentagon Memorial, Washington, DC

Patriot Day

Here, in this place of remembrance, I would ask everyone together, each in his or her own way, to spend a moment in silence and prayer. Let us implore from on high the gift of commitment to the cause of peace. Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and our communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain. Peace throughout this world which God has given us as the home of all and a home for all.

Simply PEACE.

Exerpt from prayer by Pope Francis, at an interreligious prayer service at Ground Zero.

**we will
never forget**

09/08/2024

HOLY FAMILY ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 316 S. Logan St., Lincoln, IL
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 808 NW Pearl St., Atlanta, IL
ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 213 S. Bogardus St., Elkhart, IL
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 321 S. Lafayette St., Mt. Pulaski, IL

Week of 09/08/2024

If the Mass Intention is in memory of your loved one, please consider bringing up the gifts. Contact an usher 10 minutes prior to Mass or call the parish office.

Saturday, September 7 - Vigil Mass for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm Holy Family: In memory of Dorothy Knollenberg by Gary & Holly Woodhall
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 4:45-5:00pm]

Sunday, September 8 - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am St. Patrick: In memory of the Deceased Members of the George G. Dehner Family by the Estate and Family
 8:30am St. Mary: In memory of Mark Donath by Ronald L. Koch, Gretchen & Jonathon Bolenbaugh, Amy Whitburn, & Alexander Platt-Koch
 10:00am Holy Family: In memory of Diane Buse by Jerry & Janet Langenbaugh
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 10:45-11:00am]
 10:00am St. Thomas Aquinas: In memory of Caroline Higgins by Phyllis Hawk

Monday, September 9 - Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of Dorothy Knollenberg by Jeannette Behrends

Tuesday, September 10

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of John Fleshman by Michael J. Lach
 8:00am St. Patrick: In memory of Margaret Peifer by Al & Barb Fox

Wednesday, September 11 - Patriots Day

8:30am CCS/Holy Family: In memory of Dorothy Knollenberg by Deloris E. Ommodt

Thursday, September 12 - Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of Dorothy Reinhart by Mike Higgins

Friday, September 13 - Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00am Holy Family: In memory of Larry Lohrenz by Eric Lohrenz & Marnie Fuesting
 8:00am St. Mary: In memory of Rebecca Thornton by Her Family

Saturday, September 14 - Vigil Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

4:00pm Holy Family: In memory of Richard "Dick" Simmons by Helen Meagher Simmons
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 4:45-5:00pm]

Sunday, September 15 - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Catechetical Sunday

8:00am St. Patrick: In memory of Raymond Robert Smith by His Family
 8:30am St. Mary: A Mass for the People
 10:00am Holy Family: In memory of Richard "Dick" Simmons by the Holy Family Choir
 [with Drive-Thru Communion from 10:45-11:00am]
 10:00am St. Thomas Aquinas: In memory of Tom Cochran by Mike & Jennifer Riedle

**Based on the availability of clergy, this schedule may change. Please check the parish website calendar for any changes or additions.*

- **Reconciliation**
 Holy Family Church: Tues. 7:30-8:00am & Sat. 2:45-3:30pm St. Patrick's Church, Elkhart: prior to Sunday Mass
 St. Mary's Church, Atlanta: prior to Sunday Mass St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Mt. Pulaski: prior to Sunday Mass
- **Adoration**
 Holy Family Church, Lincoln: Thursday 3:00-6:00pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet recited at 3:00pm
- **Infant Baptism**
 Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation session before the Baptism of their child. Please phone the parish office to register.
- **Marriages**
 Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance for the desired wedding date. Please phone the parish office to receive further information and to reserve your special day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/8: Before Mass - Registration for Tiny Seed classes, students stay for 1st class of the year.

9/8: Children's Liturgy resumes 10am

9/8: Holy Family Adult Choir Practice resumes 9:00am-9:45am

9/15 Morning Cookie Drop-Off at St. Mary

9/16: Blood Drive at KOC 1:30pm-5:30pm

9/26: Adult Formation Session at St. Patrick

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LADIES AUXILIARY: COME AND JOIN US

Meet: Every THIRD Wednesday from March to November
 When: 7:00 pm
 Where: The Knights of Columbus Hall

ST. MARY LECTOR SCHEDULE

09/08 - Laura O'Donnell
 09/15 - Laura O'Donnell
 09/22 - Ed Jodlowski
 09/29 - Ed Jodlowski
 10/06 - Matt McGhee
 10/13 - Matt McGhee

ST. MARY ALTAR SOCIETY

St. Mary's Altar society invites all members of our parish (male & female) to upcoming meetings. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6pm in the church hall, unless otherwise noted.



REQUEST FOR DONATIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15TH ATLANTA FALL FESTIVAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

- ◆ Donations of 1-2 dozen cookies by parish members are requested
- ◆ The cookies will be used for the Atlanta Fall Festival Ice Cream Social that follows the parade on 9/15/2024
- ◆ Cookies may be dropped off at the church the morning of the 15th



HOLY ROSARY AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Join us at Holy Family to pray the rosary at 7:40am before Mass, Monday-Friday.

Eucharistic Adoration is held on Thursdays at Holy Family from 3pm-6pm, beginning with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm.



Week of 9/8/2024 - 9/14/2024

The **red Altar Sanctuary Candle**

Holy Family is lit this week in honor of Aunt Linda by her nieces & nephews.

St. Mary is lit this week for the special intentions of the Logan County Catholic Community.

St. Patrick is lit this week for the special intentions of the Logan County Catholic Community.

St. Thomas Aquinas is lit this week in memory of Vinny Trauner by his Aunts & Uncles.

The **blue candle** at the **Mary Queen of Peace Statue** near the altar at...

Holy Family is lit this week for in memory of Alice Jensen by Todd, Alicia, Allison & Jacob.

The **blue candle** at the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue** near votive candles at...

Holy Family is lit this week for the special intentions of the Logan County Catholic Community.

If you would like to sponsor a sanctuary candle for special intentions, and/or, to honor the deceased, please call Alicia Baker at 217-732-4019 or email her, abaker@logancountycatholic.org.

Holy Family Adult Choir Come sing with us in the choir!!

The Holy Family Choir practices on Sundays 9:00 -9:45 AM. If you are in High School or older and love to sing, you are welcome to join. Please contact Sister Lori if you would like to be a member of the Holy Family Choir.

**Rehearsals begin on
Sunday, September 8th**



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, September 9th

1 Cor 5:1-8 / Ps 5:5-7, 12 / Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday, September 10th

1 Cor 6:1-11 / Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday, September 11th

1 Cor 7:25-31 / Ps 45:11-12, 14-17 / Lk 6:20-26

Thursday, September 12th

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 / Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24 / Lk 6:27-38

Friday, September 13th

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 / Ps 84:3-6, 12 / Lk 6:39-42

Saturday, September 14th

Nm 21:4b-9 / Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38 / Phil 2:6-11 / Jn 3:13-17

Sunday, September 15th

Is 50:5-9a / Ps 116:1-6, 8-9 / Jas 2:14-18 / Mk 8:27-35

Please "Pray for the Sick" by remembering the following people in your prayers:



Mike Lowry, Paul Lowry, Terri Lowry, Laura Lowry, Sean Lowry, Elijah Cox, Guinevere Decker, Ruth Young, Rodney Alberts, Jill Alberts, Linda Wright, Steve Schmidt, Ryan Butler, Donna Burr, Paula Rutherford, Gavin Fox, Rita Johnson, Adelyn Jones, McKayla Nye, Gavin Shuler, Phillip Brown, Christina Clementz, Mike Kavanaugh, Linda H., Mark L., Kay Rosner, Deb Jordan, Dwayne Knapp, Esme Avart, Rita Scanavino, Thomas Siegel, Asher Phillips, Kristin Wright, Melinda Spangler, Phil Dehner, Alexa Cunningham, Mary Masterson, Marcia Bidwell, Sandra Buttell, Debi Hardin, Ann LaMothe, Teresa Tripplett, Curt C., Eddie Pharis, Shirley Davis, Mike Young, Shirley O'Donoghue, Dan Dankosky, Bridget Dutcher, Tinley Rubenacker, John Barrick, Tom Berta, Eric Faith, Jerry Boyle, Dave Morrow, Caroline & Mike Spaniol, Steve "Hacker" Aue, Jennifer Roedz, Dan Riccolo, Diana Purdue, Ann Baunach, Joyce Lichtenwalter, Sally Velasco, Ilene Davis, Tim McCormick, Bonnie Frawley, Jeane Connolley, Cheryl Farney, Jack Sprague, David Sanborn, Kathy Miller, Pat French, Jack Peifer, Johanna Grigsby, Charlie Dumire, Bryan Finchum, Phyllis' family, Steve Panissidi, Larry Wise, Bob McCue, Carol & Bob Barger, Aria Tramontano-Grigsby Spitnale, Ron Nye, John Hebenstreit, Tina Huff, and Family, Nurse Lancaster, Cindy & Kenny Frericks, Ann Knuffman, Greg Harmon, Pam Baker, David Vale, Lois, Mirtha & Nicolas Barrios, Kimm & family, Adalynn Williams, Angela Piglia, Raeleigh Bess, Eric Ewald, Faith Stagnolia, Donna Bolton, Pat Dugan, Nancy Stevens & sons, the Salas Family, Becky Maestas, Cheryl Davis, Mike Shay, Bandy Aye, Carol Grunder, Sherry Miles, Linda Barrick, Karen Lowery, Cheryl Moscardelli, Ruthann Harvey, Rachel Santana and family, Marty J Clementz, Jr., for all children and families facing medical challenges, and all the members of the armed forces of our country.

If you wish to add a loved one, please call Isabel Vidal at 217-732-4019 or email her at ividal@logancountycatholic.org.



Through the mercy of God
may they rest in peace.

Elizabeth Patterson
(sister of Teresa Klockenga,
aunt of Kathy Buse)

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY




We resume the Children's Liturgy on **September 8th at the Holy Family 10:00am Mass**. It is open to children up to 9 years old who are attending Mass with their parents. The children take up the gifts and during the Gospels and

Homily, the children meet to discuss the readings on their level. We remind parents that **Tiny Seeds is available at the school for children ages 3-6, 9:50am-11:10am**.

Marcia May, Brittany Sharp, and Charissa Aue


"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14




**ALERT:
BLOOD
SHORTAGE**

DON'T WAIT. DONATE!

With a shortfall of about 30,000 blood and platelet donations in August, the Red Cross is calling on donors of all blood types to help amid a national blood shortage.



Schedule your appointment TODAY!




In Service to One, In Service to All.

Join us in answering the call to help others give blood!

**Lincoln Knights of Columbus
Blood Drive**

Knights of Columbus Hall

217 Limit St
Lincoln, IL 62656

**Monday, September 16, 2024
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Call 217- 737-1263 to schedule appointment or go to RedCrossBlood.org. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information. Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID. Bring a friend and help save lives together.



Fall into donating! Come to give blood Sept. 16 thru 30 for a \$15 e-gift card: rcblood.org/fall.



Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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**LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -
BABY SHOWER**

For the month of September, a Baby Shower will be hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary for Living Alternatives/Pregnancy Resource Center in Lincoln. Boxes will be placed at the Logan County Catholic Community Churches for your contributions. The boxes will be collected at the end of the month and delivered to the Center. It is a vital resource for pregnant women who need a safety net. Below are items requested:

**Baby Board Books with Spiritual emphasis
Girls Newborn onesies & separates set**



- Grooming kits
- Breast Pads
- Nipple Cream
- Breastfeeding Pillows
- Baby washcloths and towels
- Monitors
- Bottles and nipples
- Strollers
- Pack `m Plays
- Infant Carriers
- Swings
- Diaper Bags
- 4T and 5T Pull-Ups



REGISTRATION FOR CCD-9/4/24

It's hard to believe summer is over, school has started, and registration for CCD and Tiny Seed is upon us!

- ♦ **1st-8th grade CCD Students'** registration will be the 1st day of class on **Wednesday, September 4th**
- ♦ **Pre-K & Kindergarten Tiny Seed (3-6 yr Kindergartenor)** registration will occur on **Sunday, September 8th**

Lastly, we need a few **CCD teachers** this year. If you are interested, I can be reached at blangley@logancountycatholic.org. Thank you for your consideration. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Britta Langley, Director of Religious Education

**EASTERN AREA CURSILLO COMMUNITY:
CURSILLO IS COMING 9/20-9/22!**

Ladies, treat yourselves to a weekend off! You deserve it! Great food you don't have to prepare. Great fellowship and camaraderie with ladies of the faith. Great singing. Comfy beds. The **women's Cursillo weekend** is set for **9/20/24-9/22/24** at St. Patrick's parish in Urbana, IL.



For more information on this great getaway weekend call Celene Baxley@217-778-7016. We hope to see you there.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION FOR THE LOGAN COUNTY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**



Mark your calendar for the next adult faith formation session.

We will gather on **Thursday, September 26th with dinner at 5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Elkhart**. If you will have dinner with us, please RSVP to Rob Polen at 309-825-1252 by no later than September 20th.

We will have an evening of Catholic and Bible Trivia with our Priests available to answer questions of interest to you. Come, enjoy a meal, learn, and pray together as a parish community. Please consider a free-will donation.



EMMAUS KNIGHTS

AUG 18 | SEPT 8 | OCT 20 | NOV 10 | DEC 8

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

2327 W. HEADING AVENUE, PEORIA IL.

Young men 7th to 12th grade are invited to join us in Peoria one Sunday afternoon per month to share in fun, food, and faith, just like they do at Emmaus Days!

Everyone must fill out a new registration in 2024. Please register at <https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=096f2f39-5c68-4165-8115-8591270049fb>



2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

September 7-8, 2024

“Do everything for the **Glory of God.**”

Today, the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal begins in our parish and throughout the Diocese of Peoria. Through the ADA we are able to advance the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. In our parishes, our schools, our Newman Centers on college campuses, in our social service ministries in Catholic Charities we create places of encounter with Jesus. And we know that when we encounter Jesus, lives are changed. If you have not made your pledge by mail, please fill out the pledge card in your pew. **Our Parish goals are \$48,731 for Holy Family, \$ 11,136 for St Mary, \$15,310 for St Patrick, and \$11,220 for St Thomas Aquinas.** We can reach these only with your help.

Contributions can be made by check payable to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, by a credit or debit card, by direct debit from checking or savings account or online at www.cdop.org/ada. Gifts of appreciated stock, grain, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) or donor advised funds have special considerations and requirements. Contact 309-671-1550 for more information.

DONATE

While You

ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD

Wednesday, Sept 18th
Culver's of Lincoln will donate 10% of sales to Carroll Catholic School



Simply mention "CCS" when ordering

Culver's of Lincoln
2530 Woodlawn Road
217-732-7300
10:00am to 10:00pm

Ways to Order:
⇒ Use the drive-thru, for those busy nights.
⇒ Dine inside, it will feel like a family gathering.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS

Gluten free hosts are available for anyone who needs them. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass and inform the Sacristan if you need a gluten free host. The Sacristan will put them in a special Pyx for the priest to consecrate at Mass.



OCIA has begun! Please contact Sr. Margaret (217-732-4019 or srmargaret@logancountycatholic.org) for more information. We all journey with our candidates for sacraments so, please hold them and our OCIA team and support community in your prayers.

MONTHLY DEDICATION - SEPTEMBER

September is the Month of the Our Lady of Sorrows the Church celebrates the Memorial on September 15.

Traditionally, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows commemorates the seven sorrows in the Heart of Mary as noted in Scripture:

- 1) The prophecy of Simeon ([Luke 2:33-35](#))
- 2) The flight into Egypt ([Matthew 2:13-15](#))
- 3) Loss of the Child Jesus for three days ([Luke 2:41-50](#))
- 4) Mary meets Jesus on His way to Calvary ([Luke 23:27-31](#))
- 5) Crucifixion and Death of Jesus ([John 19:25-30](#))
- 6) The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross ([Luke 23:50-54](#); [John 19:31-37](#))
- 7) The burial of Jesus ([Isaiah 53:8-9](#); [Luke 23:50-56](#))

Sorrow does not mean sadness, here. It is one of the blessed actions in the Beatitudes, and thus one of the holiest qualities we can possess. In this context of the Beatitudes, a heart that mourns is a heart that loves.

Adapted from www.mycatholic.life

THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY GLOBAL PRAYER INTENTIONS - SEPTEMBER

The Holy Father has entrusted his 2024 monthly prayer intentions to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. It is an organization that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal and to deepen their daily prayer life. You can find more information about the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network for the USA on their website at [Home - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network \(popesprayerusa.net\)](http://Home - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (popesprayerusa.net)).

In September:

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Adapted from the USCCB.org

Parish Office, 316 South Logan Street, Lincoln, IL 62656 217-732-4019 www.logancountycatholic.org

Rev. Joseph Dondanville, Pastor | Rev. Nicodemus Muithi, Parochial Vicar | Deacon Wendell Lowry | Sister Margaret Schreiber O.P., Spiritual Life Coordinator | Britta Langley, Religious Education Coordinator | Alicia Baker & Isabel Vidal, Secretaries | Sister Lori Kirchman O.P., Director of Music | Carroll Catholic School 217-732-7518 - David Welch, Principal | Jennifer Craig, Secretary | Holy Cross & St. Mary Cemeteries 217-871-0266 - Kenneth "Scott" Jones, Sexton



2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Annual Diocesan Appeal?

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is an invitation to all of the faithful in the Diocese of Peoria to contribute for the common good and impact lives beyond the scope of any individual parish. Every parishioner is prayerfully asked for financial support.

How does the ADA benefit my parish and me?

Every Appeal gift goes to support diocesan programs and ministries which in turn provide services that no one parish can offer on its own. The Annual Diocesan Appeal most likely funded the education of the priests currently serving in your parish. Hundreds of young people annually participate in youth conference. Engaged couples receive marriage preparation through the Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation. Young men from our parishes attend Emmaus Days- vocation awareness program set in a spiritual but also fun environment. Many parishes host Totus Tuus summer program for children which is coordinated by our Office of Vocations.

How can I make my gift?

There are three types of gifts to the Appeal – pledge, one-time or recurring. Payments of cash, check, credit card and direct debit can be made by mail, online or via electronic giving. Monthly reminders (November-June) can also be mailed to donors for pledge payments. Gifts of appreciated stock, grain, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) or donor advised funds have special considerations and requirements. Contact 309-671-1550 for more information.

If my parish goes over goal, will it receive funds from the Annual Diocesan Appeal?

YES! Any money that is paid over the parish's goal will be returned to the parish for its own programs and services. This is a great opportunity to support the Diocese and help your parish with some project.

How much of my gift actually goes to support those in need?

97% of your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports the ministries of the Diocese. That is 97¢ of every \$1.00! Three percent of the goal are used for administrative and marketing expenses of the appeal.

My parish will be closed/merged as part of Growing Disciples process. Should I still give to ADA?

Yes, your support of the new parish may be even more vital than before. The goal of your present parish will be combined with the goal of the new parish at the time of merger. Each parishioner's contribution will make a huge difference and will make the transition much easier.

Are any ADA funds used to pay legal fees or settlements from sexual abuse cases?

The Annual Diocesan Appeal supports the work of the Church in the Diocese of Peoria. All funds raised will be used exclusively and solely to support the programs and ministries of the Diocese. **No monies donated to the ADA have been or will be used to defray expenses related to misconduct issues.**





2025 Year of Hope Jubilee: Pope Francis' *Spes Non Confundit* - Bula de Indicación.

Tradition dictates that each Jubilee is proclaimed through the publication of a Papal (or Pontifical) 'Bull of Indiction'. Each Bull is identified by its initial words. This Bull begins with **SPES NON CONFUNDIT** (*Hope does not disappoint*). The Bull is multiple pages long. A portion will be printed here until completed.

9. Looking to the future with hope also entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many situations this is lacking. A first effect of this is the *loss of the desire to transmit life*. A number of countries are experiencing an alarming *decline in the birthrate* as a result of today's frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships. In certain quarters, the tendency "to blame population growth, instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the [real] issues". [5]

Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the Creator has implanted in the hearts and bodies of men and women, a mission that the Lord has entrusted to spouses and to their love. It is urgent that responsible legislation on the part of states be accompanied by the firm support of communities of believers and the entire civil community in all its components. For *the desire of young people to give birth to new sons and daughters* as a sign of the fruitfulness of their love ensures a future for every society. This is a matter of hope: it is born of hope and it generates hope.

Consequently, the Christian community should be at the forefront in pointing out the need for a *social covenant to support and foster hope*, one that is inclusive and not ideological, working for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children, in order to fill the empty cradles in so many parts of our world. All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. *Gen 1:26*), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone. This leads to a narrow individualism and the loss of hope; it gives rise to a sadness that lodges in the heart and brings forth fruits of discontent and intolerance.

10. During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. I think of *prisoners* who, deprived of their freedom, daily feel the harshness of detention and its restrictions, lack of affection and, in more than a few cases, lack of respect for their persons. I propose that in this Jubilee Year governments undertake initiatives aimed at restoring hope; forms of amnesty or pardon meant to help individuals regain confidence in themselves and in society; and programmes of reintegration in the community, including a concrete commitment to respect for law.

This is an ancient appeal, one drawn from the word of God, whose wisdom remains ever timely. It calls for acts of clemency and liberation that enable new beginnings: "You shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants" (*Lev 25:10*). This institution of the Mosaic law was later taken up by the prophet Isaiah: "The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (*Is 61:1-2*). Jesus made those words his own at the beginning of his ministry, presenting himself as the fulfilment of the "year of the Lord's favour" (cf. *Lk 4:18-19*). In every part of the world, believers, and their Pastors in particular, should be one in demanding dignified conditions for those in prison, respect for their human rights and above all the abolition of the death penalty, a provision at odds with Christian faith and one that eliminates all hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation. [6] In order to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness, I would myself like to open a Holy Door in a prison, as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence.

11. Signs of hope should also be shown to the *sick*, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. Works of mercy are also works of hope that give rise to immense gratitude. Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious

conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable.

Inclusive attention should also be given to all those in particularly difficult situations, who experience their own weaknesses and limitations, especially those affected by illnesses or disabilities that severely restrict their personal independence and freedom. Care given to them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.

12. Signs of hope are also needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, *the young*. Sadly, they often see their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm. It is gratifying to see the energy they demonstrate, for example, by rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to help when disasters strike and people are in need. Yet it is sad to see young people who are without hope, who face an uncertain and unpromising future, who lack employment or job security, or realistic prospects after finishing school. Without the hope that their dreams can come true, they will inevitably grow discouraged and listless. Escaping into drugs, risk-taking and the pursuit of momentary pleasure does greater harm to them in particular, since it closes them to life's beauty and richness, and can lead to depression and even self-destructive actions. For this reason, the Jubilee should inspire the Church to make greater efforts to reach out to them. With renewed passion, let us demonstrate care and concern for adolescents, students and young couples, the rising generation. Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the Church and of the world!

13. Signs of hope should also be present for *migrants* who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection. A spirit of welcome, which embraces everyone with respect for his or her dignity, should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, lest anyone be denied the right to a dignified existence. *Exiles, displaced persons and refugees*, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.

May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future. May the Lord's words in the great parable of the Last Judgement always find an echo in our hearts: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" for "just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me" (*Mt 25:35.40*).

14. The *elderly*, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope. Esteem for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make, is incumbent on the Christian community and civil society, which are called to cooperate in strengthening the covenant between generations. Here I would also mention *grandparents*, who represent the passing on of faith and wisdom to the younger generation. May they find support in the gratitude of their children and the love of their grandchildren, who discover in them their roots and a source of understanding and encouragement.

15. I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the *poor*, who often lack the essentials of life. Before the constant tide of new forms of impoverishment, we can easily grow inured and resigned. Yet we must not close our eyes to the dramatic situations that we now encounter all around us, not only in certain parts of the world. Each day we meet people who are poor or impoverished; they may even be our next-door neighbours. Often they are homeless or lack sufficient food for the day. They suffer from exclusion and indifference on the part of many. It is scandalous that in a world possessed of immense resources, destined largely to producing weapons, the poor continue to be "the majority of the planet's population, billions of people. These days they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an afterthought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile". [7] Let us not forget: the poor are almost always the victims, not the ones to blame.

Next Week: We continue with "*Appeals for Hope*" Point 16.

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